

1 them as seedlings on their own root in my greenhouse, and transplanted
2 them the following winter into a cultivated area of my experimental
3 orchard described above as a group labeled "18P240 (OP)". During the
4 spring of 1999 I selected the present variety as a single seedling from
5 this "18P240 (OP)" group. Subsequent to origination of the present
6 variety of nectarine tree, I asexually reproduced it by budding and
7 grafting in the experimental orchard described above, and such
8 reproduction of plant and fruit characteristics were true to the original
9 plant in all respects. The reproduction of the variety included the use
10 of 'Nemaguard' (unpatented) rootstock upon which the present variety was
11 compatible and true to type.

12 The present variety is similar to its selected pollen grandparent,
13 'Rose Diamond' (United States Plant Patent Number 7,421) nectarine by
14 producing nectarines that are nearly globose in shape and yellow in flesh
15 color and that mature during the first week in June, but is distinguished
16 therefrom by producing nectarines that are clingstone instead of
17 freestone, larger in size, darker red in skin color and more acidic in
18 flavor.

19 The present variety is similar to its selected seed grandparent,
20 'Red Diamond' (United States Plant Patent Number 3,165) nectarine, by
21 producing nectarines that are nearly globose in shape, very firm in
22 texture, yellow in flesh color and nearly full red in skin color, but is
23 distinguished therefrom by producing fruit that matures about thirty days
24 earlier and that is clingstone instead of freestone.

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SUMMARY OF VARIETY

In summary, the present variety is characterized by a large size, vigorous, hardy, self-fertile, productive and regular bearing tree. The fruit matures under the ecological conditions described in early June, with first picking on June 2, 2003. The fruit is uniformly large in size, somewhat acidic in flavor, globose in shape, clingstone in type, very firm in texture, yellow in flesh color, and almost full red in skin color.

DRAWING

The accompanying drawing is a set of three photographs selected to display the skin color, form, and size of the fruit and leaves and one photograph depicting flower buds, open blossoms and typical petals.

POMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Referring now more specifically to the pomological characteristics of this new and distinct variety of nectarine tree, the following has been observed under the ecological conditions prevailing near Le Grand, Merced County (San Joaquin Valley), California, and was developed at the state of firm ripe on June 6, 2003, on the original tree during its seventh growing season. All major color code designations are by reference to the Inter-Society Color Council, National Bureau of Standards. Common color names are also used occasionally.

Tree

Size: Large, reaching a height of 12' [3.7 m.] and a spread of 14' [4.3 m.] after seven growing seasons utilizing typical dormant pruning.

1 Vigor: Vigorous, responding typically to irrigation and fertilization.
2 The variety grows about 3' [0.91 m.] of surplus top-growth
3 during the spring and summer. The plant should be grown on a
4 standard commercial rootstock for production purposes.
5 Growth: Spreading and dense.
6 Form: Pruned to a round top.
7 Hardiness: Hardy with respect to central California winters.
8 Heat Tolerance: Observed to perform adequately in typical central
9 California climatic conditions, which typically include
10 extended periods of heat.
11 Drought Tolerance: Variety is developed for commercial orchards and
12 requires regular irrigation.
13 Production: Very productive, thinning necessary.
14 Fertility: Self-fertile.
15 Bearing: Regular bearer with no alternate bearing yet observed.
16 Trunk:
17 Size.- Large, with a maximum diameter of 10" [254 mm.]
18 after the seventh growing season.
19 Texture.- Shaggy.
20 Bark Color.- Dark brown [59. d.Br] with Grayish brown
21 [61. gy.Br] streaking.
22 Lenticels.- Approximate Number Per Square Inch: 8.
23 Color: Brilliant orange yellow [67. brill.OY].
24 Typical Size: 3/16" to 7/16" [4.8 - 11.1 mm.].
25 Branches: Size.- Diameter of limb is 6" [152 mm.] measured 12" above

1 *Petiole*.- Average Length: 1/2" [12.7 mm.].
2 Average Thickness: 1/16" [1.6 mm.].
3 Color: Brilliant yellow green [116. brill.YG].
4 *Stipules*.- Number: 2 per leaf, up to 6 per growing tip.
5 Average Length: 5/16" [7.9 mm.].
6 Color: Light yellow green [119. l.YG] becoming Deep
7 reddish brown [41. deep rBr] with maturity.
8 *Glands*.- Number: Predominately 2 per leaf.
9 Position: Both alternate and opposite, almost always
10 positioned on the petiole.
11 Size: Small.
12 Form: Globose.
13 Color: Brilliant yellow green [116. brill.YG] becoming
14 Dark reddish brown [44. d.rBr] in the center
15 with maturity.
16 *Leaf Buds*.- Conic.
17 Flower Buds:
18 *Hardiness*.- Hardy, with respect to central California winters.
19 *Diameter*.- Typically 5/16" [7.9 mm.] 1 week before bloom.
20 *Length*.- Typically 1/2" [12.7 mm.] 1 week before bloom.
21 *Form*.- Not appressed.
22 *Surface*.- Pubescent.
23 *Tip Color*.- Strong purplish red [255. s.pR].
24 Flowers: Perfect, complete, perigynous, usually a single pistil,
25 typically thirty or more stamens, five sepals and petal

1 locations alternately positioned.

2 *Type.-* Showy, large.

3 *Average Flower Diameter.-* 1 3/4" [44.5 mm.].

4 *Number of Petals.-* About 50% have only five, about 25% have

5 additional smaller petals, and about 25%

6 are double blossoms with ten fully sized

7 petals.

8 *Petal Shape.-* Circular.

9 *Petal Margin.-* Somewhat wavy.

10 *Average Petal Diameter.-* 15/16" [23.8 mm.].

11 *Average Petal Length.-* 15/16" [23.8 mm.].

12 *Petal Apex.-* Rounded, with some having a shallow notch.

13 *Petal Base.-* Rounded to somewhat cordate.

14 *Petal Color.-* Pale pink [7. p.Pk] toward the apex smoothly

15 blending to Strong purplish pink [247. s.pPk]

16 toward the base.

17 *Anther Color.-* Deep reddish orange [36. deep rO] over a

18 Brilliant yellow [83. brill.Y] center.

19 *Stigma Color.-* Light greenish yellow [101. l.gY].

20 *Sepal Color.-* Grayish purplish red [262. gy.pR].

21 *Sepal Length.-* 9/32" [7.1 mm.].

22 *Sepal Width.-* 1/4" [6.4 mm.].

23 *Average Pistil Length.-* 3/4" [19.1 mm.].

24 *Average Stamen Length.-* 11/16" [17.5 mm.].

25 *Fragrance.-* Moderate when nectar is present.

1 *Depth.*- 11/16" [17.5 mm.].
2 *Breadth.*- 1" [25.4 mm.].
3 Base: Truncate.
4 Apex: Truncate, cordate when viewed along the suture.
5 Pistil Point: Both apical and oblique, very short, depressed within the
6 suture.
7 Stem: Medium.
8 *Average Length.*- 3/8" [9.5 mm.].
9 *Average Width.*- 3/16" [4.8 mm.].
10 Skin:
11 *Thickness.*- Medium.
12 *Surface.*- Smooth.
13 *Tenacity.*- Tenacious to flesh.
14 *Astringency.*- Slightly astringent.
15 *Tendency to Crack.*- None observed in dry season.
16 *Color.*- Strong red [12. s.R] over most of the surface becoming
17 Very deep red [14. v.deep R] toward the apex with
18 maturity, very small Light yellowish brown [76. l.yBr]
19 freckling on the sides toward the apex.
20 Flesh: *Color.*- Brilliant Yellow [83. brill.Y] with Deep red [13. deep R]
21 bleeding toward the skin and streaking toward the stone,
22 increasing with maturity.
23 *Surface of Pit Cavity.*- Both Light yellow [86. l.Y] and Moderate
24 red [15. m.R] fibers breaking when
25 twisted from the stone.

1 *Amygdalin*.- Moderate.
2 *Juice*.- Abundant, rich.
3 *Texture*.- Very firm, crisp.
4 *Fibers*.- Abundant, fine.
5 *Ripens*.- Slightly earlier toward the apex and along the lips.
6 *Flavor*.- Moderately acidic with average sweetness, typically 12
7 brix.
8 *Aroma*.- Moderate.
9 *Eating Quality*.- Good.

10 STONE

11 Type: Clingstone.
12 Form: Oval.
13 Hilum: Narrow, oblong.
14 Base: Straight.
15 Apex: Acute, with an average tip angle of 80 degrees.
16 Sides: Equal.
17 Surface: Irregularly furrowed toward the apex and pitted toward the
18 base.
19 Ridges: Jagged toward the base.
20 External Color: Moderate brown [58. m.Br].
21 Pit Wall Color When Cracked: Strong yellowish brown [74. s.yBr].
22 Cavity Surface Color: Light yellowish brown [76. l.yBr].
23 Average Pit Wall Thickness: 1/4" [6.4 mm.]
24 Average Width: 1 1/16" [27.0 mm.].
25 Average Length: 1 1/4" [31.8 mm.].

1 expected that variations in these characteristics may occur when farmed
2 in areas with different climatic conditions, different soil types, and/or
3 varying cultural practices.

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